

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 046092
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:DBLAKEMORE:JCM
APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. RICH
S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH
JUSTICE - MR. MICHEL (SUBS.)
-----122207 222302Z /65
O 222235Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 046092

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, CVIS, KS, US

SUBJECT: TONGSUN PARK TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS
REFS: (A) SEOUL 1449, (B) STATE 44715.

1. ROK EMBASSY POLCOUNS PAK, KUN-WOO CALLED AT THE DEPARTMENT FEBRUARY 22. IN A FOLLOW-UP TO THE PAK, SANG YONG/CLARK CONVERSATION REPORTED IN REF A, PAK KUN-WOO SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A MOST URGENT MESSAGE FROM SEOUL AS FOLLOWS: A) TONGSUN PARK REFUSES TO STAY AT FT. MCNAIR, AND B) THE ROKG BELIEVES IT LOOKS BAD, AS THOUGH HE WERE IN CUSTODY, FOR PARK TO STAY AT A U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATION. IN RESPONSE TO THE LATTER POINT, WE POINTED OUT THAT FT. MCNAIR IS HARDLY A PENAL INSTITUTION. ACCESS IS EASY, THE GROUNDS ARE VERY ATTRACTIVE, AND THE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE COMFORTABLE. PARK, WHO HAS NEVER VISITED MCNAIR, SEEMED PLEASED WITH THIS INFORMATION. AFTER CONFIRMING THAT PARK TONGSUN'S REFUSAL TO STAY AT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 046092

MCNAIR WAS NOT PHRASED IN THE FORM OF AN ULTIMATUM, WE AGREED TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH JUSTICE AND GET BACK TO PAK.

2. IN A SUBSEQUENT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO PAK, WHICH YOU SHOULD PASS ON TO MOFA,

ALONG WITH THE FACT THAT FORT MCNAIR IS MORE LIKE A
RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD THAN A PLACE OF DETENTION.

-- THE IRS HAS TAKEN POSSESSION OF TONGSUN PARK'S GEORGE-
TOWN HOUSE, AND THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF HIS STAYING
THERE.

-- FT. MCNAIR WAS CHOSEN ON THE BASIS OF TWO
CONSIDERATIONS: PROXIMITY AND SECURITY. A WASHINGTON
HOTEL OR MOTEL WOULD PRESENT UNACCEPTABLE SECURITY
PROBLEMS IN VIEW OF TONGSUN PARK'S HIGH PUBLIC
RECOGNITION FACTOR. THUS IF HE WERE PUT IN A MOTEL IT
WOULD HAVE TO BE OUT OF TOWN. THIS IN TURN WOULD NOT
MEET THE ETHICS COMMITTEES' LEGITIMATE REQUEST THAT
PARK STAY NEAR THE CAPITOL.

-- ACCORDING TO HUNDLEY, IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION
WEDNESDAY MORNING WASHINGTON TIME TONGSUN PARK
RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO STAY AT FT. MCNAIR. VANCE

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